

**GIVING FOOD FOR WORK**

Model System of Relief Adopted in Indianapolis.

**Selling Supplies at Wholesale Prices and Selling Them to the Needy—Promises to Pay in Cash or Labor.**

The February number of the Review of Indiana contains a continuation of the report on relief measures adopted in American cities. From that report the following account of the plan of relief followed in Indianapolis is taken:

The case of Indianapolis is one of very exceptional interest. All persons at all familiar with the methods of charity work in the United States are aware that Indianapolis has for many many years been in the forefront. If not the very best organizer of charity work, the capital of Indiana is certainly one of the two or three best cities in America. This fortunate situation was due in large part to the selfless efforts of the late Rev. Oscar C. Sulguth. The necessity for exceptional success this winter began to be realized

men in a series of meetings directed public attention to the necessity of

An appeal was made to the Indianapolis Commercial Club to take up the work. This business organization composed of one thousand members, and highly prestige as the representative body of the city, took up the work. The appeal of the appeal committee to the committee composed of Messrs. H. H. Hanna, Eli Lilly and William Fortuna. These gentlemen made a report which was endorsed by the Commercial Club, by the city authorities, the Chamber of Commerce; and in consequence the committee appointed a permanent committee to take complete charge of relief work. The members of the Charity Organization Society continued its work under the name of the committee, and that society continued its work under the name of the committee and as an instrument to give better results than they could have given if the committee in its report had advised against out-and-out charity, or any method of relief which might have a tendency to encourage the recipients. The committee organization with whose plans there was no interference, and which should be strictly business in its methods, was not in by asking contributions, but opened

regard to every applicant there was as-

ained full information as to his age, the age of those dependent upon him, the length of his unemployment, last employment and last wages, whether from pensions or otherwise, whether he was a member of any trade union, a building association, &c. The committee secured in securing work for about twenty-five persons, and, while, it had been quietly supplying food to these, it was necessary to help in that way to three or four others. The number of dependent families had increased from one hundred to more than one thousand, and the number of persons, it was becoming apparent, that would require careful investigation that could be made, was much abuse of this distribution of food. In order to be able to secure any relief from the municipal authorities in the form of public work.

**Promises of Work or Money.**

The last week of December the committee gave out, for free distribution of food to the needy, and they had a plan of selling food from the Central Club on credit to the worthy unemployed.

ments of work; for the registration and

employment bureau was attached to the market, and was required to investigate any application for credit in order to determine the applicant's creditworthiness. To each accepted applicant a credit account book is issued, showing the number of persons in his family, and certifying credit for weekly rations for this number. At the same time he is compelled to make a statement of the food when available, or to work on call of the market for the payment due from him at the rate of twelve and one-half cents an hour, or to work in the market. The market pays the quantity at the cost price to wholesale dealer and it sells them at the same price. The market also has a variety of food sold to applicants in the kind of food which is sold to applicants. The market is a combination of food, the quantity varying according to the number in the family. The market is a very efficient market with frugal use, and patrons are not asked to make more frequent purchases. The market for a family of four or five persons for the first week is for one variety of twelve pounds of potatoes, ten pounds of corn meal, ten pounds of hominy, one pound of lard, one pound of pickled pork, eight loaves of bread, one

and one cake of soap. The charge for this combination was eighty-two cents. At a

to store the coal in Indianapolis would be \$30. It is needless to say that in New York or any eastern city the retail price to the consumer would be much higher than in Indianapolis. One-half of this quantity would be sufficient for a family of two or three—this was found sufficient for one week—at a cost of \$1.50. The committee proposes to change the rate from time to time. It was expected, instead, that the ration for the last week of January would be one-half bushel of potatoes, ten of corn meal, five of corn, eight of flour (or four loaves of bread), two of molasses, one-half of lard, one quart of molasses, one-half pound of salt, one-half pound of coffee, and one-half pound of sugar. This ration, expected to last a good-sized family a week, was to be sold for one dollar. For a family of two or three, one-half of the quantities, one-half the price. The committee also supplied three hundred pounds of coal per week for the use of the unemployed. This supports the coal himself in wheelbarrows—two tickets, entitling the holder to one hundred and fifty pounds, being issued for each family. The committee, in ordinary weather for one cook stove, the committee also supplies shoes for the children of the unemployed. When the children are attending school, and when the mother is unemployed, the committee of them is certified by the teacher.

It will thus be seen that the Indianapolis

mittee is relieving the necessity in that community at the lowest possible cost, and in a manner that is the least humiliating to the people who are receiving aid. No matter whatever is taken at this food market, the supplies are sold only to those who without money and cannot get credit where. It is expected, however, that in compliance with their contract the debtors will pay when the renewal of industrial activity opens employment for most of them. It is not expected that in most cases they will liquidate their indebtedness, but such work as may be furnished them by the committee. It was hoped that arrangements could be made for the debtors to work out to enable these debtors to work out their claims on the streets and in public

dianapolis thus far has not permitted it to raise any money for expenditure in that

Finally, however, the committee has agreed to furnish the labor without payment from the city. The city will furnish the necessary supervision and facilities for work. This proposition has been accepted, and the street commission is receiving each day as many men as can employ. If any refuse to work, they are denied further credit at the food bureau, and are asked to settle up their accounts cheerfully. They are given one day's work at a time. This is sufficient to most, that is, to the transient, but not to the family of three. Besides cleaning and repairing streets, it is proposed to employ the men in the city to do the work of the city. The origin and the scientific, as well as practical character of the Indianapolis plan can be better understood by any intelligent person who reads this account of what, as we are aware, is the most perfect arrangement for the city that has been devised in any of our cities.

Lady Charlotte Schreiber of England

a most unique and valuable collection of playing cards. It is asserted that many thousands of pounds are represented in her collection, including, as it does, cards decorated and hand colored by great artists, one of which is a masterpiece. Besides the Lady Schreiber owns many cards that have been the property of great personages which have figured in card playing histories.